

THE WHITE LETTER HAIRSTREAK, *STRYMONIDIA W-ALBUM* KNOCH. IN ALDERNEY, C. I.: POSSIBLY THE FIRST RECORD – My wife and I, along with Mr. D. Poole, were in Alderney from July 27th to Aug. 10th 1985 on holiday and to study the Lepidoptera and plant life. On July 28th while overlooking the valley Val du Sud I caught a glimpse of an insect which I felt could possibly be a hairstreak. I knew of no hairstreak on the island other than the green hairstreak which I had seen on a previous visit.

The Val du Sud is quite a deep (by Alderney standards) wooded valley, the trees being mainly sycamore and elm bordered by hawthorn bushes.

We returned to the same spot on July 31st hoping to get a positive sighting. Before long we were rewarded and apart from several specimens flying around the elms two *w-album* came down onto the bracken only a few feet away. One was netted and identification confirmed.

Thinking that another wooded area, Val de la Bonne Terre, would also be a likely habitat for this insect we went there on Aug. 1st. Within minutes we could see a number of *w-album* around the trees and others flying over, and settling on the bracken. Probably all the suitable sites in Alderney harbour this butterfly. One even came into the garden of our cottage in the small township of St. Anne.

I can find no previous record of this butterfly for Alderney which is surprising as it is apparently very well established, although I have to admit I failed to find it when visiting Alderney in August 1980.

I would like to thank those people on Alderney who were so very helpful and kind. For a loan of a moth trap and battery etc. and to those who allowed us to run the trap within their gardens in various parts of the island and to those who gave us free access to private land. — G. E. HIGGS, The Cottage, Willen, Milton Keynes, MK15 9AD.

Current Literature

Nordens Malere. Handbog over de danske og fennoskandiske arter af Drepanidae og Geometridae (Lepidoptera), by Peder Skou. *Danmarks Dyreliv*, 2:1-332, 358 line drawings and half-tone illustrations and 24 coloured plates. 250mm. x 175 mm., hardback. Fauna Bøger & Apollo Bøger, 1984. Obtainable from Apollo Bøger, Lundbyvej 36, DK-5700, Svendborg, Denmark. Price (including postage D.Kr.433 (about £30).

This volume on the Drepanidae and Geometridae of Denmark and Fennoscandia will be of much interest to British lepidopterists